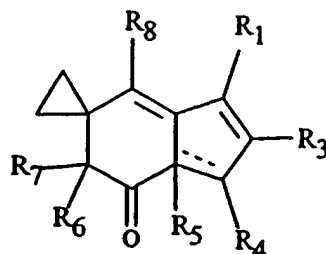


ABSTRACT

The present invention provides illudin analogs of the general formula (I):



(I)

where R_1 is $(CH_2)_n-X-Y$ or H; n is 0 to 4; X is O or S or N or absent; and Y is an optionally substituted (C_1-C_8) alkyl, (C_6-C_{10}) aryl, (C_6-C_{10}) aryl (C_1-C_4) alkyl or cyclo (C_3-C_6) alkyl optionally comprising one or more heteroatoms; a monosaccharide, an amino acid residue, or H when n is 2-4;

R_2 is absent; or R_1 and R_2 together comprise a 5-7 membered cyclic ring;

R_3 is (C_1-C_4) alkyl or H; R_4 is H, SCH_2CO_2 (C_1-C_4) alkyl, $O-(C_5-C_{12})$ aryl or $-S-(C_5-C_{12})$ aryl; R_5 is H, OH or absent; R_6 is (C_1-C_4) alkyl or absent; R_7 is OH or $OSi((C_1-C_4)alkyl)_3$; or

R_6 and R_7 together are ethylenedioxy;

R_8 is optionally substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl; and

the bonds represented by ----- are individually present or absent. The invention further provides dimers comprising analogs of formula (I).